

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /086 W

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R 250740Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4244

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, ELAB, SW

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE LABOR MINISTER VISITS STOCKHOLM

REF: LISBON 1469

1.SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HEADED BY LABOR
MINISTER WAS GIVEN RED-CARPET TREATMENT DURING VISIT
TO STOCKHOLM MARCH 17-20. OCCASION WAS MARKED BY DINNERS,
MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND CHIEF CABINET OFFICERS
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AND WORKING SESSIONS WITH LABOR MARKET ORGANIZATIONS.

PORTUGUESE ASSURED HOSTS AFM REGIME IS STILL WORKING TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC GOALS. SIMILAR LINE WAS TAKEN BY DELEGATION'S TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES WHO INSISTED INTERSINDICAL IS BONA FIDE LABOR ORGANIZATION, POLITICALLY NON-ALIGNED AND DEVOTED ABOVE ALL TO MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. A PORTUGUESE DELEGATION LED BY LABOR MINISTER, CAPWIN COSTA MARTINS, WAS ACCORDED TOP-LEVEL ATTENTION BY GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING VISIT TO STOCKHOLM FROM MARCH 17-20. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER VISIT WAS RAPID RESPONSE TO INVITATION TENDERED BY SWEDISH COMMERCE MINISTER FELDT DURING RECENT TRIP TO LISBON, OR TO EARLIER INVITATION BY LABOR MINISTER INGEMUND BENGTTSSON. DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER PALME, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON, FELDT, AND BENGTTSSON AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH LABOR-ORIENTED PURPOSE OF VISIT, HAD MEETINGS AT NATIONAL LABOR MARKET BOARD AND WITH LO GENERAL SECRETARY RUNE MOLIN, TCO PRESIDENT LENNART BODSTROM AND OFFICIALS OF SWEDISH EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION.

3. IN ADDITION TO MARTINS, MEMBERS OF DELEGATION WERE PEDRO COELHO, MINISTRY OF LABOR'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMIGRATION;
JOAO AMARAL LABOR MINISTER'S CHIEF OF CABINET;
DR. VICTOR PARRACHO, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS;
THREE CAPTAINS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT: JOSE CARDOSO, JOAO OLIVEIRA, AND ERNESTO ESTEVINHO;
TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY: RUI TEIXEIRA LOBO AND BASILIO HARTA;
TWO MEMBERS OF INTERSINDICAL SECRETARIAT (WHO ARRIVED LATER): ALVARO RANA AND PEDRO CORTEZ.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD MARCH 18, COSTA MARTINS DECLARED THAT AT PRESENT MOMENT THERE IS NO MORE UNREST IN PORTUGAL THAN IN SWEDEN AND THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS HE PREDICTED THAT, DESPITE RUMORS TO CONTRARY, AFTER MARCH 11 ABORTIVE COUP THERE WOULD BE NO SUBSTANTIAL REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTIES NOW REPRESENTED IN GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN THERE HE SAID. BEST SOLUTION, HE BELIEVED, WOULD BE COALITION BETWEEN AFM AND SEVERAL OF POLITICAL PARTIES. SPEAKING PRIOR TO FOLLOWING DAY'S SUSPENSION OF THREE POLITICAL PARTIES FROM PARTICIPATION IN SELECTION (LISBON 1545), COSTA MARTINS STATED THERE WAS NO SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF PROHIBITING ANY POLITICAL PARTY IN PORTUGAL. NO PROOF EXISTED YET, HE SAID, OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT

INVOLVEMENT IN COUP.

5. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL PRESENT AT MEETING WITH FONMIN ANDERSSON TOLD EMBASSY THAT COSTA MARTINS ADMITTED PRIVATELY THAT PORTUGUESE SITUATION VERY UNSTABLE AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHANGE DAY BY DAY. COSTA MARTINS INSISTED ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE. HE NOTED 45 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP, ASKED FOR PATIENCE AND MAINTAINED REGIME WAS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. HE SAID IT WAS DELIBERATE GOP DECISION THAT DELEGATION SHOULD VISIT STOCKHOLM BEFORE GOING TO MOSCOW. LATTER SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK.

6. LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION TO TECHNICAL MEETINGS COMMENTED TO LABOR ATTACHE THAT MEMBERS SEEMED THOROUGHLY CONFUSED BY SOPHISTICATED CONCEPTS OF SWEDISH LABOR MARKET ADMINISTRATION AND HIGHLY STRUCTURED AND COMPLEX COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS.

7. TWO INTERSINDICAL REPRESENTATIVES PAID SECOND AND SEPARATE CALL AT LO HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY HELD TALKS LASTING SEVERAL HOURS WITH LO GENSEC RUNE MOLIN. LO DEPUTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY ANDRE THIRIA, WHO WAS PRESENT AT SESSION, TOLD LABOR ATTACHE THAT MOLIN WENT TO SOME LENGTH IN DESCRIBING AND EXPLAINING BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM. IN RESPONSE, TWO VISITORS CLAIMED EMPHATICALLY THAT INTERSINDICAL IS POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT AND IS, IN FACT, TOO BUSY WRESTLING WITH CONCRETE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO WORRY MUCH ABOUT MATTERS OF IDEOLOGY. THEY SAID INTERSINDICAL HAS NO INTENTION OF JOINING EITHER ICFTU OR WFTU BUT WOULD SOON APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION. THEY ALSO INFORMED HOSTS THAT INTERSINDICAL WOULD HOLD FIRST CONGRESS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JULY. THIRIA SAID THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS BETWEEN NORDIC TRADE UNIONS AND INTERSINDICAL, WITH LATTER TRAVELING FIRST, PERHAPS IN LATE APRIL. NEITHER SIDE RAISED SUBJECT OF ASSISTANCE IN ANY SPECIFIC WAY.

8. WHILE IN STOCKHOLM, DELEGATION RECEIVED INVITATION FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO STOP OFF IN LONDON EN ROUTE HOME. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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